

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

In Figure 4, the invention's locking member 20 may be observed. The locking member is a resiliently tensioned structure, typically, though not limitedly embodied of the same material as the invention's receiving and sliding attachment structures 3 and 12. The catching member 20 further possess angularly disposed teeth like structures 22 which are outwardly positioned at first and second ends (26, 28) of the catching member. A securing aperture 24 is substantially centered between said ends (~~24~~ 26, 28). Figure 4 further provides a frontal view of the invention's sliding member as well as a posterior view of the invention's attachment receiving structure 12.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 6 illustrates a posterior view of the instant invention intercostally positioned above and below at least two correspondingly positioned rib pairs (31, 32) and substantially surrounding a patient's sternum (50).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 7 illustrates a frontal view of the instant invention intercostally positioned above and below at least two correspondingly positioned rib pairs (31, 32) and substantially surrounding a patient's sternum (50).